

PROTEINUS LATREILLE, 1796 (INSECTA, COLEOPTERA): PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF A TYPE-SPECIES UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS Z.N.(S.) 1763

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The nominal genus *Proteinus* was established by Latreille, 1796 (*Précis Caract. Ins.*: 9) without included species. The same author ([1802-1803], *Hist. nat. gén. partic. Crust. Ins.* 3 : 135) fixed *Dermestes pulicarius* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 357) as the type-species of *Proteinus* by making it the first included species (type by subsequent monotypy).

2. Later, 1806 (*Genera Crust. Ins.* 1 : 298) Latreille used the generic name *Proteinus* for the species *Dermestes brachypterus* Fabricius, 1792 (*Ent. Syst.* 1 : 235) and in 1810 (*Consid. gén. Anim. Crust. Arachn. Ins.*: 427) cited this species as the type of the genus.

3. The first included species (*Dermestes pulicarius* Linnaeus) belongs to the family Nitidulidae. It was reclassified by Latreille, 1807 (*Genera Crust. Ins.* 2 : 15) in the genus *Cercus* Latreille and by Gyllenhal, 1808 (*Insecta Suecica* 1 : 246) in *Cateretes* Herbst. In 1858, Jacquelain Du Val (*Gen. Coléopt. Europ.* 2 : 138) established the subgenus *Heterostomus* (of the genus *Brachypterus* Kugelann), for two species, *gravidus* Illiger and *cinereus* Heer. Ganglbauer, 1908 (*Käf. Mitteleuropa* 3 : 454) considered *Heterostomus* Du Val as a separate genus. Later, Grouvelle, 1913 (*Ann. Soc. ent. France* 81 : 387) pointed out that this name was a junior homonym of *Heterostomus* Bigot, 1857 (*Insecta* : *Diptera*) and replaced it by the new name *Brachypterolus*.

4. The species included by Latreille in 1806 and cited as type by him in 1810, *Dermestes brachypterus* Fabricius, belongs to the family Staphylinidae, and is generally accepted as being typical of the genus *Proteinus*.

5. Blackwelder, 1952 (*Bull. U.S. nat. Mus.* 200: 413) pointed out that because of its type-species, *Proteinus* belonged to the family Nitidulidae and proposed the new name *Pteronius* for the Staphylinid genus.

6. If the Code is strictly obeyed, *Proteinus* Latreille, 1796, with the type-species *Dermestes pulicarius* Linnaeus, must be the valid name for a genus of Nitidulidae with the following synonymy:

Proteinus Latreille, 1796
= *Heterostomus* Du Val, 1858 (nec Bigot, 1857)
= *Brachypterolus* Grouvelle, 1913

Also, the genus of Staphylinidae previously known as *Proteinus* must be:

Pteronius Blackwelder, 1952
= *Proteinus*: Latreille, 1806, et auctt. (nec Latreille, 1796).

7. The generic name *Proteinus* Latreille has, however, been used in the family Staphylinidae for more than 150 years. It is generally used in this sense and the subfamily name *Proteininae* has been derived from it. In addition, the name *Brachypterolus* Grouvelle has been used for a genus of the family Nitidulidae for more than 50 years. Its replacement by a name generally used in the subfamily Staphylinidae can only cause confusion.

8. We therefore request the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all designations of type-species for the nominal genus *Proteinus* Latreille, 1796, made prior to the Ruling now requested, and having done so, to designate *Dermestes brachypterus* Fabricius, 1792, to be the type-species of that genus;
- (2) to place the following generic names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Proteinus* Latreille, 1796 (gender : masculine), type-species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above, *Dermestes brachypterus* Fabricius, 1792;
 - (b) *Brachypterus* Grouvelle, 1913 (gender : masculine), type-species, by present designation, *Cantharetes gravidus* Illiger, 1798 ;
- (3) to place the following specific names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *brachypterus* Fabricius, 1792, as published in the binomen *Dermestes brachypterus* (type-species of *Proteinus* Latreille, 1796);
 - (b) *pulicarius* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Dermestes pulicarius*.